

Stories from
PANCHATANTRA

*(Sanskrit Text & English
Translation)*

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पञ्चतन्त्रावली Stories from Panchatantra ---

पञ्चतन्त्रावली

| | |
|---|-----|
| पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली..... | 3 |
| पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली..... | 5 |
| पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली..... | 8 |
| पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली..... | 14 |
| पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली..... | 20 |
| पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली..... | 33 |
| पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली..... | 46 |
| पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली..... | 51 |
| पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली..... | 58 |
| पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली..... | 68 |
| पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली..... | 83 |
| पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली..... | 90 |
| पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली-पञ्चतन्त्रावली..... | 100 |

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The King's Monkey Servant

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"A king wishing long life should never keep foolish servants."

A king had a monkey as his body-guard. He was very fond of the king, and as he was very much trusted by the king, he could go into the king's bed room without being stopped by anyone.

Once when the king was sleeping the monkey started breezing the king with a fan. While doing this a fly came and sat on the king's chest. The monkey tried to ward off the fly with the fan. But the fly would come again and sit on the same place.

The monkey due to its foolish nature became angry, got a sharp sword and hit the fly to kill it. The fly flew away but, the king's chest was divided into two, and the king died.

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The Wedge Removing Monkey

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"Anyone who tries to poke into matters which are none of his business, meets his end, just like the monkey who tried to remove the wedge."

Near the city limits, a temple was being built by the son of a business man. In the noon time, the carpenters working on that, used to go into the city for lunch.

One day suddenly a group of monkeys while roaming came to that place. One of those carpenters had put a wedge in middle of a half-cut arjuna tree log. The monkeys started playing with the trees and logs as they wished.

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Panchatantra

One of those monkeys whose death was near, sat on that half-cut log and started removing the wedge from that. As the wedge moved out, the monkey's hanging genitals went into the gaps of the log, got trapped and the monkey got killed.

crow-black snake- tale

Tale of the Crow and the Black Snake

Once upon a time, there was a crow who lived in a tree.

One day, the crow saw a black snake on the ground. The crow was very afraid of the snake. It flew away and told its friends about the snake. They were all very scared.

The crow said, "I saw a black snake! It is very dangerous!" The other crows were very scared. They all flew away and hid in their nests.

The black snake was very angry. It wanted to eat the crow. It crawled towards the crow's nest.

The crow said, " --

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"Some tasks can be achieved only through planning which cannot be achieved through valour."

There used to be a huge bargad tree in which resided a pair of crows. There also lived a black snake which on giving birth to her young ones ate the crows' little children. The crows were sad about this. They went to discuss this with their friend, the jackal, who lived under another tree.

"Dear, what should we do in such a situation? This mean, black snake comes out of his home in the tree and eats away all my children. Tell me if there is a way out? It is also said, that -

The one whose cultivated land is near a river, whose wife is enamoured of other men, whose house is infested with snake, -- how can that person lead a peaceful life? "

"Do not worry at all on this subject, and do not feel sad," said the jackal. "This greedy snake cannot be killed without proper planning. Because -

"In bad times, one should not abandon patience. With only proper planning the enemy can be easily defeated; with weapons, it is not easy. Even a weak person, who has planned properly cannot be conquered by the brave.

The crow said, " Now, tell, how will the mean snake be killed?"

The jackal said, "Go to the city where the king also resides. There, when the king or his minister or some rich person is not very alert, pick up his gold jewellery or necklace and drop it near the tree. Then, inorder to recover the jewellery, the snake will be killed as well."

After hearing this the crow couple immediately flew towards city as they wished. Reaching near a pond the she-crow saw that some King was busy in water-play, leaving necklaces, gold ornaments, pearl necklaces and other garments etc., near the pond. The she-

crow picked-up one of those ornaments and started flying towards her cave. The King's men seeing the she-crow taking the ornament, started following her. The she-crow threw the gold necklace in the snake's cave and sat at a far distance from that.

When the King's men after climbing the tree looked into the cave, the snake was seen seating with it's fang spread. They killed the snake with sticks, recovered the necklace and left for the palace. The crow couple also lived happily from that day.

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The Foolish Tortoise

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कम्बुग्रीवः -- "तुम्हारे दोस्तों! तुम्हारे मित्रों, तुम्हारे
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"The person who does not heed his well-wishers and friends, owing to his foolishness, meets the same destruction as the stupid tortoise who fell from the stick and died."

In a lake there lived a tortoise named Kambugreeva. Two swans, named Sankat and Vikat were his very close friends. Everyday the three would sit

by the lake and talk about various
devarshi, maharshi and so on, and
when the sun set they would return to
their homes.

After some days, because of lack of rain, the lake slowly started to dry up. The tortoise was very sad and worried. Seeing him the swans said "Friend! This lake has dried up. Now only swampy mud remains. Without water how shall we live? This thought is worrying us."

On hearing the swans, the tortoise said - "Now, due to the lack of water, my survival is not possible. Yet, you two should think about saving me. It is said that" -

"In bad times, one should not abandon patience. It is quite possible that with patience one can be delivered from the calamity. When the boat breaks in the middle of the sea, its owner does not leave patience and hope. On the

contrary, he thinks of ways to reach the shore."

"In addition, Manu has said" -

"During bad times an intelligent man should make efforts to save his kith and kin from the calamity. Through sincere efforts, it is possible to keep away trouble."

"You can get a strong rope or a small piece of stick. Search another lake that has plenty of water. I will hold the middle of rope or stick with my teeth, and you can hold the two ends and fly, taking me to the other lake."

The swans heard what Kambugreeva had to say. They said, "Friend we will do as you have said. But, in this situation you will have to be silent. If you are not silent you will fall from the stick."

After making the necessary arrangements, the swans were flying and Kambugreeva could see the town below. The people in the town were astonished and were shouting, "see! see! the birds are taking a circular thing and flying."

On hearing the people's din below, Kambugreeva said, "Friends! what is this noise ?" Even before he could complete that, he fell from the sky and the people cut him to pieces.

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# Stories from Panchatantra

एक दिन एक राजा ने अपने मंत्री को बुलाया।  
मंत्री ने कहा, "महाराज, मैंने आपके लिए  
एक बहुत ही अच्छा तरीका सोचा है।"

राजा ने पूछा, "क्या?"  
मंत्री ने कहा, "महाराज, मैंने आपके लिए  
एक बहुत ही अच्छा तरीका सोचा है।"

राजा ने कहा, "अच्छा, लेकिन मैं नहीं जानता।"  
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## Stories from Panchatantra

When a person has intellect, he is powerful. Where is the power of a person who does not have an intellect? The lion in the forest, proud of his power, was killed by a helpless rabbit. In a forest there lived a lion by the name of Bhaasurak. Because he was so powerful he would kill many deer and rabbits but he was still not satisfied. One day, all the animals of the forest like the deer, boar, buffalo and rabbit got together and told the lion -- "Lord! What is the benefit in killing so many animals everyday -- because, actually you eat only one animal. Together, let us decide on a system. While you sit in

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your den one of us, by rotation, will come to you and you can eat him. This way you will also be getting your food without any labour and the animals of the forest will not be destroyed collectively. Please follow this system.

After listening to these animals, Bhaasurak said, "What you are saying is right. But, if an animal does not reach my den everyday, then I shall kill and eat all of you. "

All animals agreed to this system and were able to fearlessly roam in the forest. One animal whether old, or who had renounced the good things in life, or one who was stricken with grief or one out of fear of the destruction of his children, would reach the lion's den in the afternoon everyday to be his food.

One day, after rotation, it was the turn of the rabbit. He was not willing to go, but because of the encouragement by

the other animals he was walking along slowly. He was thinking about destroying the lion and slowly and sadly walking towards the den. On the way he saw a well. He climbed the well and peeped into it. He saw his own reflection in the centre of the well. When he saw the reflection he thought "This is a fine way to kill the lion. With my intelligence I will make Bhaasurak angry and he will fall in the well."

The rabbit reached Bhaasurak when the sun was setting. Because of the delay, the hungry lion was parched in the throat. The angry lion licked both his lips with his tongue and decided that tomorrow he would kill all the animals in the forest. While he was thinking thus, the rabbit arrived, bowed to him and stood there.

On seeing the rabbit the lion turned red with anger and said "Rabbit! Firstly you are so small. Upon that you have

reached here so late. Because of this offence of yours, I will kill you today and tomorrow I shall kill all the other animals in the forest."

The rabbit replied humbly, "Lord, not my fault, nor of the other animals. I will tell you the reason for the delay."

The lion said, "Tell me quickly! Speak all that you want to before I take you inside my mouth."

The rabbit said, "By rotation it was my turn and because rabbits are so small, all the animals in the forest had sent five rabbits like me. While on the way a very powerful lion came out of his den, stopped us and said where are you people going. You can now remember your God."

After he spoke I replied, "We are all going to our Lord, Bhaasurak the Lion as per the system to be eaten by him."

After hearing him out, Bhaasurak said, "Dear, if what you have said is true, then take me to that usurper lion immediately, so that the anger that I have accumulated for killing the deer shall be vented on the lion and I will feel better. It is also said that -

Territory, friend and gold are the three fruit of battle. Of these even if one (fruit) is not achieved then one should not fight at all. When there is no possibility of achieving the fruit and one's honour is not compromised, then one should neither be the cause of the fight nor take part in the fight.

The rabbit said, "Lord! what you are saying is right. The kshatriya warrior enters into a battle when the territory or honour is compromised. But your enemy, this lion, is protected in his den. He had come out of his den and stopped us. The enemy in the fort becomes invincible.

Then he said, "Is it true? This forest is mine. You all should be loyal to me. This Bhaasurak is a thief. If he is the king here, then leave four of you as security and bring Bhaasurak immediately. Whichever of us is stronger will be the king and only he will eat the rabbits."

With the permission of that lion I have reached here. This is the cause of my delay. I have said all that I had wanted to. Now Lord, do as you wish.

The lion said, "How does it matter to you. If the lion is in his den, even then take me there."

"In that case my Lord, let us go," said the rabbit. He led the lion to the same well that he had seen on the way. Near the well he said to Bhaasurak, "Lord, how can a lion tolerate your radiance. Seeing you coming from afar, the usurper lion has entered his den. Come, I will show you."

Bhasurak said, "Show me his den."

Bhaasurak then peeped into the well and roared. There was a double echo from the well. Seeing his own reflection the foolish lion thought that the enemy was in the well, and leaped into it. In the process he gave up his life.

All animals were happy with the death of the lion and the return of the rabbit. They honoured him and all the animals lived happily in the forest, thereafter.



## Stork and Crab

### The Stork and the Crab

"A stork was flying over a pond and saw a crab. The stork said to the crab, 'You are a very slow creature. Why do you not move faster?' The crab replied, 'I am as fast as you are, but you are not as slow as I am.'"

The stork was very angry and said to the crab, 'You are a very slow creature. Why do you not move faster?' The crab replied, 'I am as fast as you are, but you are not as slow as I am.' The stork was very angry and said to the crab, 'You are a very slow creature. Why do you not move faster?' The crab replied, 'I am as fast as you are, but you are not as slow as I am.'

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उसके पास एक बालू का ढेर था।

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Stories from  
Panchatantra

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"Having eaten fish -- large, small and medium sized, the greedy stork died by the bite of a crab."

In a forest there was a lake in which lived many marine creatures. One of its residents was an old stork who was no longer capable of killing fish. Hence, one day, oppressed by hunger he sat on the bank of the lake copiously shedding tears enough to irrigate the land. A crab along with some marine animals were pained to see the weeping stork. The crab asked him -- "My dear, you have not made any arrangement for your meal today, you have only been shedding tears and sitting quietly, what is the matter?

He said, "Son, you have judged correctly. After eating all these fish I am atoning my sins, renouncing the world and shall give up my life. I am not eating even the fish that are near me."

On hearing this, the crab asked, "My dear, why are you renouncing the world?"

Said the stork, "Son! I was born in this lake and have grown old here. I have heard that soon the twelve-year long famine will take place."

The crab asked, "From whom have you heard this?"

The stork replied, "From some soothsayers. Saturn will enter the constellation containing of Rohini and will be in conjunction with Mars and Venus. The Sage Varahamihiracharya had said -

If Saturn enters the cart-like constellation containing Rohini, then for twelve years Indra will stop the rain on earth.

Thus -



When Rohini's constellation is exposed, the earth will feel guilty of committing the sin. Hence, to atone the sin, the earth will reduce itself to ash and bone during the drought.

And also, --

If any of these, Saturn, Mars or Moon are able to enter the cart-like constellation containing Rohini then a veritable ocean of disaster will destroy the entire universe. If the Moon enters the constellation then the people will become totally helpless and in some places even eat their own young ones. In some places the strong rays of the sun will render the water unfit for drinking."

As it is this lake has very little water, and if there is a drought it will dry up shortly. When this lake, where I have spent my childhood and now reached old age, dries up then all the marine life will end due to lack of water. I

cannot bear to see their destruction. Therefore, today, I have decided to fast unto death. At this point in time all small marine life from small lakes are being transported by the larger marine animals to bigger lakes. The bigger marine animals like crocodiles, big lizards and so on are themselves moving to deeper lakes. But, look, the residents of this lake are doing nothing and moving around without a worry. This is the main cause of my tears; that no one in this lake shall survive.

The crab listened to the stork, understood the seriousness and shared it with all the other residents of the lake. On hearing the news of the impending drought all the fish, the tortoises etc., got scared and went to the stork and asked, "Is there any way by which the lives of the residents of the lake can be saved?"

Said the stork, "Near this lake there is another very deep lake. Owing to the

abundance of lotus flowers it cannot dry up even after twenty-four years of drought. If any one of you can climb on my back, then I can take him to that lake."

All the marine animals of the lake believed the stork. Addressing him as "Father, Maternal Uncle and Brother, they gathered round the stork and pleaded with him, "Take me there, first!"

With deep malice in him the stork would carry the little animals and drop them at a rock nearby and after eating them at leisure, return to the lake and tell them concocted stories. This became his way of life.

One day the crab told the stork, "Dear, your first conversation was with me. Then why are you taking along all others to the new lake but not me. Please, sir, protect me."

When the stork heard the crab, he thought that, yes, eating fish daily has become so boring, instead I will eat the crab today. Having decided thus he took the crab on his back and flew towards the rock. The crab saw that at a distance there was a rock with bones piled up like a hill and immediately understood that they were fish-bones. He said to the stork, "Dear, how far is the lake, yet? I feel that you are now tired of my weight."

On hearing this, the stork thought that the foolish crab is not powerful on land (than in water) and laughed cockily, "Crab! where is the other lake? This is now my livelihood. Now you can remember your dear God as I am going to drop you on this rock and eat you up. "Just as the stork was saying this, the crab bit the soft smooth neck with both his jaws and killed him.

The crab carrying the broken neck of the stork, slowly trudged towards the

lake. When the other marine animals saw him they said, "O Crab! Why have you returned? Even Uncle Stork has not come back. We are all ready and waiting for him."

When the crab heard these residents of the lake talking thus, he laughed and said, "You fools! That liar, that cheat would take all the animals a little far from here, drop them on the rock and eat them. I still have some more time to live, therefore, I somehow understood his plan, killed him and have brought his neck along. Now, we need not fear anyone. All of us marine creatures will live well."

## Stork-Mongoose-Goose

### The Stork and the Mongoose

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# Stories from Panchatantra

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An intelligent person thinks beforehand about both the success and failure of an action. The mongoose killed all the storks because they did not assess the gain and loss.

In a forest there was a banyan tree in which lived many families of storks. A snake lived in the hollow of that tree. The snake would kill and eat the young and newborn storks and live happily.

One day, on seeing the young ones being consumed by the snake, and in great grief over the dead children, the stork went to a lake and with tears in his eyes sat there sadly. Seeing the stork in such melancholy, a crab asked, "Dear Sir. Why are you crying thus, today?"

On hearing the crab, the stork said, "Dear! what am I to do? My unfortunate children have been eaten by the snake that lives in the hollow of



the tree. Can you tell me of some way to destroy the snake?"

The crab thought, "The stork is a sworn enemy of us crabs. Hence, I will cleverly suggest something that will destroy all the storks."

With a cruel stone-heart but sweet and gentle words, the enemy should be got convinced in such a way that the enemy is destroyed completely.

The crab told the stork, "Dear! If it is true, then carry some flesh of fish from burrow of a mongoose and drop it near the hollow where the snake lives. The mongoose will covet the fish and in the process kill the snake in the hollow."

When this was done, the mongoose came in search of the flesh of the fish. Not only did he kill the snake; the mongoose gradually killed all the stork residing in the tree.

पञ्चतन्त्र कथाएँ Stories from  
Panchatantra

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## The Brahmin, Thief And The Demon

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Stories from  
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“你這是在說笑嗎？”他問道，聲音中帶着一絲不悅。  
“當然不是，”他回答道，語氣堅定。“我已經想清楚了，  
我不能再這樣下去了。我要去別的地方，去尋找我的未來。”  
他深吸一口氣，然後轉過頭，看向窗外。窗外是一片廣闊的  
田野，金燦燦的小麥在微風中輕輕搖曳。他感到一種前所未有的  
自由和輕鬆，彷彿所有的煩惱都隨風而去了。

## Stories from Panchatantra

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An enemy can also become a well-wisher. Owing to the argument the demon saved the brahmin's pair of calves.

In a town there lived an extremely poor brahmin by the name of Drona. His livelihood depended on people's charity and alms. He could never enjoy good clothes, beauty aids, perfumes, ornaments, betel, etc. His beard, moustache and nails were always untrimmed. Summer, rains and inclement weather had made his body emaciated. A man performing a yagya noticed the abject penury of the brahmin and gifted him with a pair of calves. Right from the time the calves

were young, the brahmin would collect oil, ghee, grass, etc and feed the calves and the calves soon grew up and became strong.

A thief noticed the brahmin's calves and decided "I will steal this Brahman's pair of calves". During the night, he collected a rope and left his home with the intention of stealing the calves. Half way down the road he saw a ferocious looking person with a row of sharp teeth, upraised nose, large red eyes, large veins showing on his body, lean face, and flame-coloured beard and moustache. Looking at this person, the thief got scared. Yet, he mustered enough courage and asked this person, -- "Who are you?"

The person answered, -- "I am a brahmin-devouring demon by the name of Satyavachan. Please introduce yourself."

The thief replied, -- "I am a thief by the name of Kroorkarma. I have started from home in order to steal the pair of calves of the poor brahmin."

Reposing his trust in the thief, the demon said, "Friend! I have not eaten since six days. I shall now eat the brahmin. Really good! We both have the same kind of work."

Both reached the brahmin's house and waited at a quiet spot for the right moment.

Watching him sleep, the demon with the intention to eat the brahmin, moved towards him. The thief called out, -- "Sir, this is not right. You eat the brahmin after I have stolen and taken away the calves."

The demon said, -- "If the brahmin wakes up from the noise of the calves then for me all is in vain."



The thief said, -- "While you are eating the brahmin if some hurdle comes our way then I will not be able to steal the calves. Therefore, I will take the calves first, then you eat the brahmin."

Their argument increased, both were opposing each other and in the midst of this discussion the brahmin woke up.

On seeing the brahmin awake, the thief said, "O brahmin! this demon wants to eat you."

Promptly, the demon said, "O brahmin, this thief wants to steal the pair of calves."

On hearing both of them the brahmin stood up and became alert, and remembered God. By remembering God, he was able to save himself from the demon. He then picked up a stick and saved his calves from the thief.

पञ्चतन्त्र कथाएँ Stories from  
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# Stories from Panchatantra

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## Stories from Panchatantra

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One day -- "What boy! He has a scale made of solid iron --

He has a scale made of solid iron --  
He has a scale made of solid iron --  
He has a scale made of solid iron --  
He has a scale made of solid iron --

He has a scale made of solid iron -- "What boy?"

He has a scale made of solid iron --  
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He has a scale made of solid iron --

Where rats can devour a scale made of solid iron, then, a falcon can fly away with a boy -- there should be no doubt about it.

In a certain place lived a businessman's son by the name of Jeernadhan. Owing to bad financial condition, he thought of going abroad --

No one can be more lowly than the person, who, has earned and enjoyed

the luxuries of life in a country or town, continues to live there when his financial condition has become poor.

And

Where in the past one has lived with self respect and enjoyed life, and then continues to stay on there during financially bad days, then, he falls in the esteem of other people. Other people look down on such a person.

There was a weighing scale that his ancestors had got made from solid iron. He kept the iron scales as security with a money lender and embarked on his journey to foreign lands. After a long time, when he had earned enough in various places, he returned to his hometown and asked the money lender, -- "O Respected Sir, please return my scales that were kept as security with you."



The money lender replied, -- "O Sir, your scales do not exist any longer. They have been eaten away by rats."

Jeernadhan said -- "O Respected Sir, its not your fault, since the rats ate away. The world is such. Nothing is permanent. I am going to the river for a bath. Will you please send your son, Dhandeva, with me to carry my bathing paraphernalia?

The money-lender, afraid of thieves, told his son - "Son! This uncle of yours is going for a bath. Go with him and carry his bathing paraphernalia."

Well, it is rightly said, --

"In the absence of fear, greed and gain, no one would honestly do good to others."

In addition -

"If great honour is being given without any apparent reason, then a person should be very alert."

In accordance with the father's instructions, the son (Dhandev) went alongwith Jeernadhan, carrying the bathing paraphernalia.They reached the river bank, and after bathing, Jeernadhan hid the moneylender's son in a cave and shut the entrance to the cave with a huge stone. Then he returned to the town.

Seeing Jeernadhan returning alone, the money lender asked, -- "O dear Sir! Where is my son who went along with you?"

He answered, -- "From the river bank, a falcon took your son and flew away."

The money lender said, -- "Liar, can a falcon fly away with a boy? Bring back my son, otherwise I will move the court."

Jeernadhan said (sarastically), - "O Truthful Sir, if falcon's cannot take away a boy, then rats cannot eat a solid scale. If you want your son back, then return my weighing scale to me."

Arguing thus, both reached the court. On reaching the court, the money lender said in a high pitch, -- "Your honour! Great wrong has been committed. This man has stolen my son."

On hearing his cries the judges said, - "O businessman! Restore the son to the money lender."

The businessman said, -- "What can I do? I saw a falcon take away the boy from the riverbank."

On hearing him, the judges said, -- "What you say does not appear to be true. Is a falcon capable of taking away a boy?"

Then the businessman pleaded, "Sirs, Please listen to me. -

Where rats can devour a scale made of solid iron, then, a falcon can fly away with a boy - there should be no doubt about it.

The judges said, "How come?"

The respected businessman narrated from the start. The judges listened and made them understand. The boy and the scales were exchanged and the businessman and the moneylender were satisfied.

## धर्मबुद्धि-पापबुद्धि द्वयम्

### Dharmabuddhi and Paapbuddhi

एकदा एक राजा नगरपाले जायते तेव्हा ते राजा  
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Stories from  
Panchatantra

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# Stories from Panchatantra

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एक दिन एक राजा ने अपने मंत्री को बुलाया और कहा -

मैंने तुम्हें बहुत पैसे दिए हैं, लेकिन तुम्हें कुछ भी नहीं मिला है।  
तुम्हारे घर में क्या है? तुम्हारे परिवार में क्या है?  
तुम्हारे बच्चे क्या करते हैं? तुम्हारे दोस्त क्या करते हैं?

राजा ने कहा कि मैं तुम्हें बहुत पैसे दूंगा, लेकिन तुम्हें कुछ भी नहीं मिला है।  
तुम्हारे घर में क्या है? तुम्हारे परिवार में क्या है?

एक दिन  
एक राजा ने अपने मंत्री को बुलाया और कहा कि मैं तुम्हें बहुत पैसे दूंगा,  
लेकिन तुम्हें कुछ भी नहीं मिला है। तुम्हारे घर में क्या है?  
तुम्हारे परिवार में क्या है? तुम्हारे बच्चे क्या करते हैं?  
तुम्हारे दोस्त क्या करते हैं? -- "राजा ! मैं तुम्हें बहुत पैसे दूंगा -

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तुम्हारे दोस्त क्या करते हैं? -- "राजा ! मैं तुम्हें बहुत पैसे दूंगा -

# Stories from Panchatantra

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एक दिन एक राजा ने अपने मंत्री को बुलाया।  
मंत्री ने राजा के सामने खड़े होकर कहा,

“महाराज, मैंने आपके राज्य में बहुत सारे  
प्राणी पाए हैं जो आपकी सहायता कर सकते हैं।”

राजा ने मंत्री को ध्यान से सुनाया।  
मंत्री ने कहा, “महाराज, मैंने एक  
ऐसा प्राणी पाया है जो आपके राज्य में  
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Stories from  
Panchatantra

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Dharmabuddhi and Kubuddhi were both known to me. Of them (Kubuddhi) killed his father by suffocating him in smoke.

In a town lived two friends by the names of Dharmabuddhi and Paapbuddhi. Once Paapbuddhi thought that since he himself was quite stupid and poor, if he could go with Dharmabuddhi to foreign lands, with his help make some money, and while returning seize Dharmabuddhi's earnings as well, then life would become very good.

The next day, Paapbuddhi went to Dharmabuddhi and said , "Friend! In your old age which acts of yours will you recall? Not been to foreign lands and seen new things, what stories will you narrate to your children? It is also said –

that if on this earth one is not able to go to foreign lands, know new languages and cultures then the birth is futile.

And also,

acquisition of knowledge, wealth, sculptures etc., is not possible for a person unless he happily tours from place to place."

On hearing Paapuddhi say thus, Dharmabuddhi embarked happily with him on the sojourn after the advice of teachers and after calculating the astrologically right time. Owing to Dharmabuddhi's persona, Paapbuddhi

also acquired a lot of wealth. After collecting all their earnings, they were returning to their native place very happily.

It is said that –

For a person who has acquired knowledge, wealth and art and residing in a foreign place even one 'kosa' of land is like a hundred 'yojanas.'

When they were nearing their village, Paapbuddhi told Dharmabuddhi thus, "Dear, taking our entire wealth to the village may not be correct, because our kith and kin would ask for it. Hence, we should bury our wealth underground in the deep forest and carry only a small portion home. As and when we require it, we will come and dig up the wealth and take it to the village.

It is said –

that a wise men should not flaunt even small amount of wealth, because, on seeing wealth the minds of even great sages stumble.

In addition,

Flesh and rich person meet people who want to devour them. Just like fish in water, lions and other wild animals on land, and birds in the sky are forever ready to eat flesh, there are people forever ready to devour a rich man.

On hearing the above suggestion of Papbuddhi, Dharmabuddhi said "Friend! alright."

They then hid their wealth underground, and left for their respective homes and started living happily. One night, Paapbuddhi dug up the hidden wealth in the forest, refilled the hole with mud and brought home

the entire wealth. A few days later, he went to Dharmabuddhi and said, "Friend, my family is very large. We are facing shortage of money. Let us go and bring home our wealth from the forest. Dharmabuddhi said, "Alright. let us do that."

Thence both of them reached the spot and dug up the place but it was empty. On seeing it, Paapbuddhi beat his head and said, "O! Dharmabuddhi, you have stolen the wealth. No other person could have done that. You have even refilled ths spot with fresh mud. Hence you better give me half of what you have taken from here or I shall complain to the king.

Dharmabuddhi said, "Wicked man! Do not say thus. My name is Dharmabuddhi and I am not a thief. It is said that," -

Believers in dharma look upon others'



women as mother, others' wealth as  
rubble, and look to all living beings  
as their own.

Arguing thus, both reached the court,  
claiming and counter-claiming that the  
other was a thief. In order to reach the  
truth, the judges decided to invoke the  
"Divine Justice". Immediately,  
Paapbuddhi said, "This is not justice. It  
is said that –

Wisemen have said that to settle  
disputes, tangible evidence is  
examined.

In absence of tangible evidence,  
witnesses are examined and only in  
the  
absence of witness does the court  
resort  
to Divine Justice.

In this matter, the Tree Gods are my  
witnesses. Only they know who is thief  
and who is honest."

The judges said "Agreed.

Also said is -

In such cases even if a witness from  
low caste is available then Divine  
Justice  
is not required. In this case we even  
have  
Gods as witness.

"We are also very curious about this  
matter. Tomorrow morning we shall,  
alongwith you, go to the forest and ask  
the Gods."

On returning from the court,  
Paapbuddhi told his father, "Father, I  
have stolen the wealth that belonged  
to Dharmabuddhi. If you just say  
something, then it can remain with us,  
or else we may lose our wealth and  
also our lives."

The father said, "Son, tell me quickly what I am to say so that the wealth remains with us forever."

As per Paapbuddhi's plan, the father sat inside the hollow of the shami tree. In the morning after his bath, Paapbuddhi along with Dharmabuddhi and the judges, reached the spot in the forest. Under the shami tree Paapbuddhi loudly called out, -- "He knows the sun, moon, wind, fire, space, earth, water, heart, death, day, night and bears witness to the two twilights and justice, and all actions of men. O Tree-God, truthfully tell, who, between us is a thief."

On hearing Paapbuddhi, his father called out from the hollow of the tree, "Listen, listen, Dharmabuddhi has stolen the wealth."

Hearing this, all the judges were stupefied and looked at Dharmabuddhi and were parleying among themselves

to give him appropriate punishment. Meanwhile, Dharmabuddhi collected inflammable material and pushed it inside the hollow of the tree and lit it. When the hollow of the tree started burning, Paapbuddhi's father screamed in great agony and came out from there with half burnt body and burnt eyes. The judges asked, "How have you reached this stage? Who are you?"

On being asked, he narrated the details and then died.

The judges then hanged Paapbuddhi to the same shami tree and expressed their appreciation of Dharmabuddhi thus, "Someone has rightly said, --

A clever person should plan for success  
as well as failure of a project."

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# The Frog and the Snake Named Mandavisa

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Stories from  
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"I have been thinking about you ever since I saw you at the airport. I hope you are well."

I smiled and nodded.

"I am. And you?"

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## Stories from Panchatantra

“The king was very angry with the minister and ordered him to be executed. The minister, however, was very clever and he managed to escape from the palace. He went to a friend who was a powerful man in the kingdom. The friend was very surprised to see the minister and asked him what had happened. The minister told him the whole story and the friend was very angry with the king. He decided to help the minister and he ordered his soldiers to go and kill the king. The king was killed and the minister became the new king of the kingdom.”

“The king was very angry with the minister and ordered him to be executed. The minister, however, was very clever and he managed to escape from the palace. He went to a friend who was a powerful man in the kingdom. The friend was very surprised to see the minister and asked him what had happened. The minister told him the whole story and the friend was very angry with the king. He decided to help the minister and he ordered his soldiers to go and kill the king. The king was killed and the minister became the new king of the kingdom.”

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By compromising self respect and boldly facing dishonour one can fulfil many a mission. Man's stupidity lies in protecting self-respect and fearing dishonour to an extreme and thereby damaging himself. If the situation demands, then one can even carry one's enemy on the back. By carrying



his enemies on his back at the right time, the snake killed all the frogs.

In the region of the Varunaadri mountain lived an old snake by the name of Mandvish. One day he was wondering if there could be a way so that he can live life without making much effort. He reached upon an idea and then went to a lake full of frogs and moved about hither and thither restlessly. Watching him thus, a frog sitting near the lake asked-- "Uncle! You are not busy looking for food as you have been in the past?"

The snake replied, "Dear, unfortunate that I am, where is the will to eat? During the thirteenth of the fortnight, I started out in search of food. Looking for food I finally found a frog. I was planning to catch him but he saw me. He was scared for his life and ran away into a group of brahmins who were busy in their study. I did not see the frog again. He went away elsewhere. I

did not realize that he had gone and in the confusion I bit into the thumb of the son of a brahmin. The boy had entered the water at the shore for a bath. Due to my bite, he did instantaneously.

Hence, the grieving father of the boy cursed me, "Wicked ! you killed my son without any reason. For this act of yours I curse you that you will carry frogs on your body and that will be your livelihood from now." Accordingly, I have come to be a vehicle for you people.

The frog heard the narration of the snake and told other frogs about it. The frogs then conveyed it to their king Jalpaad. Jalpaad heard the amazing information and was very happy in his heart. He immediately climbed the hood of the snake and all the other frogs also climbed the snake. In fact, the frogs who could not climb the snake started running with him.

The snake, Mandvish, with the intention of pleasing the frogs, started moving in different styles. On feeling the slippery skin of the snake, the king frog, Jalpaad, was exclaimed happily,

"Neither elephant, horse, chariot,  
humans,  
nor boat, could give me so much  
pleasure  
as the snake."

The next day the clever snake started moving slowly. Watching him move slowly, Jalpaad asked, "Dear Mandvish, why are you are not moving fast as before?". Mandvish replied, "My Lord, I have not eaten today and I don't have the strength to move ahead." On hearing this, Jalpaad said, "Friend, then you may eat some small frogs." Mandvish was happy to hear this and expressing his gratitude he said, "Lord, the brahmin had given the same curse. Your command has made me very grateful and happy."

By eating the frogs daily, in a few days time the snake became very strong. With great joy in his heart, he said,

"These tasty frogs, are available to me with just a little deception. If I keep on eating them, still they will last long. Thus, my food is now ensured for a long time."

## The Lion and Jackal Son

Stories from  
Panchatantra

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Stories from  
Panchatantra

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Stories from  
Panchatantra

"I'm not a doctor, I'm not a nurse, I'm not a pharmacist, I'm not a veterinarian, I'm not a dentist, I'm not a psychologist, I'm not a psychiatrist, I'm not a social worker, I'm not a counselor, I'm not a therapist, I'm not a coach, I'm not a teacher, I'm not a parent, I'm not a friend, I'm not a family member, I'm not a community member, I'm not a citizen, I'm not a human being. I'm just a person who's been told to help you."

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You may be valiant, intelligent and highly  
noteworthy; But the race that you are  
born in, does not kill elephants.

In a forest a lion couple were living.  
After this the lioness gave birth to  
sons, hence the lion used to haunt  
animals and give lioness. One day no  
animal was caught by him. While  
roaming in the forest it became  
evening. On way back home a baby-  
jackal was got by him. He without  
killing the baby, carefully carried it and  
gave to the lioness in living condition.  
The lioness asked, "Dear, have you  
brought something for me to eat?". The  
lion replied, "Dear, except for this baby  
jackal I could not find any animal.  
Since he is small, and I thought, like  
our small children, I did not kill it. It is  
said that -

A woman, a brahmin, a brahmachari  
and a child should not be killed. If they  
come in good faith, then one should

not attack them even if one's own live is in danger.

At this time you may eat the baby jackal. Tomorrow, I shall hunt something.". The lioness said, -- "Dear, since you did not kill him because he is small, why should I kill him just to fill my stomach? Besides,

Even if one's life is in danger, one should not do wrong and the righteous duties should not be abandoned. This is eternal religion.

From today this jackal will be my third son.". After declaring thus, she fed the baby jackal with her milk and nourished him. The two sons of the lioness without knowing the difference between themselves and the jackal spent their childhood together.

One day an elephant was roaming in the forest. On seeing him the two lion cubs got angry and ran towards the

elephant. Watching them the jackal son stopped them and said, "O, this is an elephant and an enemy of your race. Hence, you must not go towards him" and ran homeward. Seeing the elder brother running away, the two cubs got discouraged and walked home.

It has been rightly said that –

In the battlefield the presence of just one confident soldier is enough to retain enthusiasm in the rest of the army and one cowardly soldier will make the others dispirited and all will flee from the place.

And also

Therefore kings try to keep together bold, patient, confident, brave and

valiant men and keep the cowardly ones away.

On reaching home, in front of their father, the two cubs started making fun of their elder brother. "He ran away on seeing the elephant," they joked. When he heard his two younger brothers make fun of him, the jackal son became extremely angry. With quivering lips, reddened eyes, stretched eyebrows, he spoke foul words to the younger cubs. The lioness took him away and said gently, "Son, you should not say such things. They are your younger brothers."

Hearing the consoling words of the lioness, the jackal son became even more angry. He said, "Am I any less than these two in bravery, looks, knowledge and skill, that they are making of fun of me? Now, I have got to kill them."

On hearing this the lioness, who wished safety for the jackal son, smilingly said,

You may be valiant, intelligent and highly noteworthy; But, the race that you are born in, does not kill elephants.

"Listen carefully, "Son, you are the son of a jackal mother. Out of mercy, I nursed you with my milk and tended you. So long as these two sons do not know in sheer innocence, that you are a jackal, you must run away and mix with the people of your race. Otherwise, they (cubs) will kill you.". When the jackal son heard the words of the lioness he became scared and disturbed and slowly walked away to mix with other jackals.

## The Lion, Jackal And The Cave

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## Stories from Panchatantra

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# Stories from Panchatantra

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The person who plans before taking  
action is successful; the one who acts  
before planning has to repent later.

In a forest there lived a lion by the  
name of Kharnakhar. One day,  
oppressed by hunger he roamed hither  
and thither for food but could not find  
any animal. At sunset, he saw a cave  
and entered it. He thought that during  
nightfall some animal will certainly  
enter this cave to rest. Therefore, I  
shall hide in the cave during the night.



A jackal, by the name of Dadhipoochh resided in this cave; sometime later he entered the cave. When he reached the mouth of the cave he noticed the paw marks of a lion entering the cave, but not coming out from there! He thought his death was now imminent. Surely, a lion is hiding inside this cave. What shall I do? How do I ascertain whether or not the lion is inside the cave?

He stood at the gate of the cave and said, "O cave! O cave!" and then waited silently. Not finding an answer he said, "O cave! don't you remember our pact? Whenever I shall return from outside, I will call out your name and in turn you will call out mine. Or else, I shall go to some other cave."

Hearing that the lion thought - "surely this cave calls back at the visitor; but, presently it is not speaking anything due to fear. It is rightly said -

In a scared person, the hands and feet stop functioning, the voice turns silent and the body begins to tremble.

Hence, I shall respond (to the call of the jackal). Once he hears the response, the jackal will enter the cave and become my meal.

When the lion roared the cave reverberated, and the animals, even in far off places in the forest became alert. The jackal heard the roar of the lion and made his escape. While running away, he read (recited) the shloka,

The person who plans before taking action is successful; the one who acts before planning has to repent later. I have grown up in this forest and now turned old, but am yet to hear the voice of a cave.